533 generally cast in the minor key. There exists also a treasury of religious folk music, so that the greatest part of the Finnish hymnal is composed of native material.

The instrumental folk music is noteworthy, 534 too. The national instrument of the Finns is the kantele, which is reminiscent of a zither or a small harp, and is placed on one's knees while playing. Lately there has been a kind of renaissance of kantele-playing but among the people this instrument fairly early was replaced by the violin which is used for playing dance music at weddings and other gatherings. There still exist performers of folk music, and various localities have their own dance melodies.

533 The Finnish folk music is interesting and original and deserves wider recognition. In a